

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 28 to 31 as follows:

--Such packet switching networks are described notably in the French patent application FR-0001553 (published as FR 2804812 on August 10, 2001, and corresponding to U.S. Application No. 09/778,827, filed on February 8, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 7,123,614) in the name of CANON. A detailed description of the data transfer mechanisms, for example of the audio-visual type, can be found therein.--

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, line 25 to page 8, line 7 as follows:

--For reasons of simplicity, the communication nodes to which no host is connected have not been depicted in Figure 1; as for the other nodes, only some of them have been depicted, consisting of a connection device N1, N2 or N3, containing interfaces to which hosts are connected, thus omitting notably the part of the node containing a packet switching device within the sub-network. This is because the switching means have been described in earlier application in the name of CANON, namely FR-0001553, which corresponds to U.S. Patent 7,123,614. As for the structure of the device N1, N2 or N3, this will be described in detail below, notably with reference to Figure 2, where this connection device bears the reference number 90. Thus, in order to simplify the description, all the characteristics of the communication nodes which may prove useful for understanding the invention have been combined in this connection device 90, but it will be understood that these characteristics can be distributed otherwise within each node when the invention is concretely implemented.--